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Alcester Grammar School Record

No. 129

Autumn 1963

President : Mr. D. E. Oldham

Editor : C. J. SUCH

Committee:

Jane Drinkwater, Janice Swain, Hedney, Sheila Michell,

Susan Cooke, Willis.

EDITORIAL

This year has been an important one in the history of Alcester Grammar School. The long-awaited extensions were inaugurated by the Lord Bishop of Coventry, coinciding with the school's fiftieth anniversary, the Drama Society staged "Twelfth Night," the first play put on by the school for an external audience in nine years, and the "Record" is now edited by a pupil after forty years of being edited by a member of staff. We hope this will continue in future years and thank Mr. Oldham for editing the "Record" for four years and for all the work he still has to put in.

Contributions this year represent a broader cross-section of the school, though some forms still remain unrepresented. It is interesting to note that there have been ten clubs and societies in existence this year, covering a wide range of interests. We hope this trend to more social life will continue, and we thank the members of staff for organising these activities.

Birmingham. On 20th February a party of fifth and sixth formers, accompanied by Miss Webley and Mr. Oldham went to see "L'Alouette," a French play, presented by the University of Birmingham. Miss Webley and the Sixth Form English group attended a lecture on the astronomy of Chaucer given by Dr. Clarke, at the Worcester Grammar School for Girls, on 26th February. On 27th March, Miss Webley organised a visit to the Belgrave Theatre, Coventry, for the upper school to see "Twelfth Night" Miss Farrimand and Mr. Oldham also accompanied the party. Most of the Sixth Form, accompanied by Mr. Lacy, attended the Student Christian Movement's East Worcestershire Sixth Form Conference at Redditch County High School, on 2nd April. The theme, "The Church—Its music and worship," proved thoroughly interesting and enjoyable to every member of the party. Mr. Oldham, Miss Morris and thirty-two boys and girls enjoyed an eight day sight-seeing visit to Paris from 6th April to 13th April. On 15th May Miss Webley and Mrs. Bonham took a party of Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form girls on an interesting tour of the Mental Hospital at Hatton. A group of upper school geographers and biologists took part in the tour of Oversley Wood, on 20th May, given by the Forestry Commission during Nature Week. Mr. Packham and Mr. Petherbridge accompanied the party. From 23rd to 24th May the G.C.E. "O" level art group with a few Fourth and Sixth Form artists attended two lectures at the National Gallery in London and visited other galleries and the Nature Week Exhibition in Westminster.

The Junior Christmas Party was held on 14th December and the Senior on 19th December, both in the new hall. The Sixth Form Party was held on 29th December in the Alcester Town Hall.

The school extensions were inaugurated on 15th November by the Lord Bishop of Coventry, the Right Reverend C. K. N. Bardsley, C.B.E., M.A., D.D. Speech Day was held on 8th May. After a very entertaining address, the Reverend Canon Bryan Green, D.D., Rector of Birmingham presented prizes to the following pupils.

IB : 1. Merryl Newborough, 2. Judith Willis, 3. Diana Boland.

AI : 1. Catherine Lacy, 2. A. Fox, 3. R. P. Wilson, 4. Hilary Bradshaw.

IIB : 1. Jane Hall, 2. Susan Shepard, 3 N. J. Shearman
Progress Prize : Doreen Corfield.

IIA : 1. Juliette Blundall, 2 Judith Bell, 3. R. J. Smith.

IIIB : 1. T. R. Jones, 2. G. C. Ford, 3. J. T. Barlow
Progress Prize : J. P. Birch.

the service were Margaret Buckingham, Katharine Strasser, Ann Ramwell, Anne Price, Roma Hallam, Cockburn, Steed. The lessons were read by Craddock, Such, Burn, the Headmaster, Jane Drinkwater, Margaret Buckingham, Valerie Nichol Sally Bolton and the Rector. An unusual feature this year was the singing by the whole school of a French Carol—"Ilest né, le Divin Enfant."

An Easter Service was held in the hall, on 11th April, for the pupils and staff. Soloists were Margaret Buckingham, Anne Price, Roma Hallam, Jean Thomas, Katherine Pope, Joanne Kimber and Steed. Lessons were read by Such, Handy, Fridman, Sally Bolton, Jane Drinkwater, Susan Cooke, Margaret Buckingham and the Headmaster.

During the bad weather, in January, Such and Craddock took temperature readings on the school premises. A minimum temperature of 0 deg. F. was recorded during the night of 23rd—24th January!

The school photograph was taken on 2nd October. Youth employment officers visited the school in October and January. The sale of Earl Haig poppies in the school amounted to £9/10/3, and the sum of £11/2/0 was raised for the National Society of Spastics by the sale of Christmas Seals.

We were pleased to welcome Dr. A. F. Barton, from Birmingham University as a temporary chemistry teacher from 21st November to the end of the Autumn term. He has now moved to a permanent post in London, where we wish him every success. We were equally pleased to welcome Miss V. Maynard, a domestic science student from Gloucester Training College, who remained with us from 5th March to 3rd April. We are extremely sorry to report that Mrs. Rutter slipped on the polished floor in her office and broke a bone in her arm. After an operation she was soon back on duty with her arm in a sling; but full recovery will be slow.

We convey our congratulations to Helen Parker on reaching the finals of the Northern Junior Badminton Championships, the West of England Open Badminton Championships and the All England Junior Badminton Championships. We also congratulate Steed on winning the Lester Cup for the winner of the piano—playing championships of the British Isles for twelve-year-olds. A splendid achievement! Congratulations also to Joan Hedney, Mason and Tuckey on being appointed prefects in May.

The school acknowledges the generous gift of several rose-trees to the school quadrangle by Mrs. F. Nichol, also the gift of three wooden seats by the Old Scholars' Guild.

On 3rd April, the annual cross-country race took place over a slightly different course due to the building of a housing estate. Winner of the senior event was Ford and the junior—Forster. On

High Jump: 1 Forster (S), 2 Thornton (N), 3 P. Brookes (N), 4 Cockburn (N). Height: 4 ft. 8 ins.

Long Jump: 1 Forster (S), 2 Thornton (N), 3 Bradford (N), 4 Lewis (S). Distance: 18 ft. 6 ins.*

Javelin: 1 Righton (W), 2 Whelan (S), 3 Mellor (S), 4 Forster (S). Distance: 97 ft. 11 ins.

Discus: 1 Forster (S), 2 Righton (W), 3 P. Brookes (N), 4 Thornton (N). Distance: 93 ft. 1 ins.*

Shot: 1 Thornton (N), 2 Ross (S), 3 P. Brookes (N), 4 Forster (S). Distance: 29 ft. 11½ ins.

Cross Country: 1 Forster (S), 2 P. Brookes (N), 3 Cockburn (N).

GIRLS

100 yards: 1 W. Faulkner (S), 2 A. Price (W), 3 M. Gallagher (W), 4 L. Henson (S). Time: 12.9 secs.

150 yards: 1 W. Faulkner (S), 2 A. Price (W), 3 M. Longford (S), 4 M. Gallagher (W). Time: 20.0 secs.

High Jump: 1 L. Henson (S), 2 W. Faulkner (S), 3 J. Radbourne (S), 4 E. Woodcock (N). Height: 3 ft. 10 ins.

Rounders Ball: 1 M. Wright (N), 2 S. Fitzmaurice (W), 3 H. Vondrak (N), 4 J. Cund (N). Distance: 165 ft.

Long Jump: 1 L. Henson (S), 2 W. Faulkner (S), 3 A. Day (S), 4 M. Gallagher (W). Distance: 13 ft. 2 ins.

Discus: 1 W. Faulkner (S), 2 A. Walter (W), 3 E. Woodcock (N). Distance: 78 ft. 3 ins.*

Javelin: 1 M. Wright (N), 2 M. Watton (N), 3 H. Vondrak (N), 4 J. Bell (S). Distance: 64 ft. 4 ins.

Under-Thirteen — BOYS

100 yards: 1 Taylor (N), 2 Rippington (W), 3 Griffin (N), 4 Titley (N). Time: 12.8 secs.

220 yards: 1 Griffin (N), 2 Rippington (W), 3 Titley (N), 4 Walker (W). Time: 30.4 secs.

440 yards: 1 Griffin (N), 2 Taylor (N), 3 Titley (N), 4 Walker (W). Time: 70.2 secs.

High Jump: 1 Griffin (N), 2 Rippington (W), 3 Yapp (N), 4 Walker (W). Height: 4 ft. 4½ ins.*

Long Jump: 1 Rippington (W), 2 Steed (W), 3 Titley (N), 4 Griffin (N). Distance: 13 ft. 11 ins.

Cricket Ball: 1 Steed (W), 2 Griffin (N), 3 Watts (S), 4 Yapp (N). Distance: 180 ft. 9 ins.

GIRLS

100 yards: 1 A. Perkins (N), 2 L. Ray (S), 3 A. Smith (W), 4 P. Higgins (S). Time: 13.8 secs.

150 yards: 1 A. Perkins (N), 2 M. Whatley (W), 3 P. Higgins (S), 4 J. Kimber (W). Time: 21.5 secs.

High Jump: 1 A. Perkins (N), 2 J. MacAleeese (N), 3 A. Rogers (S), 4 C. Walter (W). Height: 3 ft. 7 ins.

Long Jump: 1 A. Perkins (N), 2 G. Richards (N), 3 P. Higgins (S), 4 L. Ray (S). Distance: 13 ft. 3½ ins.

Rounders Ball: 1 A. Perkins (N), 2 V. Harvey (N), 3 A. Jaggard (N), 4 L. Ray (S). Distance: 132 ft. 7 ins.

OTHER EVENTS

Mass Relay (Boys, 24 x 110 yards): 1 Spencer, 2 Newton. Time: 5 mins. 49.4 secs.

Relay (Upper School Boys 4 x 110 yards): 1 Newton, 2 Wells. Time: 51.5 secs.

Relay (Lower School Boys 4 x 110 yards): 1 Spencer, 2 Newton. Time: 54.5 secs.

Relay (Upper School Girls 4 x 110 yards): 1 Spencer, 2 Newton. Time: 61.2 secs.

Relay (Lower School Girls 4 x 110 yards): 1 Spencer, 2 Wells. Time: 59.0 secs.

Tug-of-War: 1 Newport, 2 Wells.

The following presentations were made:—

VICTOR LUDORUM CUP: Handy (N). Jones (W).

VICTRIX LUDORUM CUP: A. Busby.

JUNIOR VICTRIX LUDORUM CUP: A. Perkins.

CROSS COUNTRY CUP (for winning house): Newport.

CROSS COUNTRY CUP (for winner of Senior event): Ford.

TENNIS CUP: H. Parker.

BOYS' SPORTS CUP: Newport.

GIRLS' SPORTS CUP: Spencer.

GAMES SHIELD: Newport.

SILVER MEDALS: W. Faulkner; A. Perkins; Handy; Brookes, P.; Forster; Rippington; Jones; Thornton.

BRONZE MEDALS: A. Busby; L. Morrison; L. Henson; Homer.

FINAL TOTALS: 1 Newport (455), 2 Spencer (352), 3 Wells (240).

FOOTBALL, 1962/3

Captain : Tallis.

Secretary : Hedney.

Although, this year, the number of defeats exceeded the number of victories, the majority of the matches were decided by small margins. This improvement was due to a more scientific approach by the forwards with some very courageous support from the defenders.

Outstanding players in attack were Greaves, Homer and Hemming, and, in the defence, Fridman, Handy and Willis were good, with some excellent goalkeeping from Tallis. The performances

CRICKET RESULTS, 1963

Chipping Campden G.S. v. Alcester. Lost by 10 wickets.
Alcester v. Redditch C.H.S. Lost by 9 wickets.

Bromsgrove C.H.S. v. Alcester. Lost by 67 runs.
Alcester v. Chipping Campden G.S. Lost by 4 wickets.
Redditch C.H.S. v. Alcester. Match drawn.
Alcester v. Queen Elizabeth's G.S. Lost by 50 runs.

TENNIS

Captain : H. Parker.

Secretary : K. Day.

During the term the tennis team have played only four matches, many being cancelled owing to the weather conditions. The results suggest that the matches were all one-sided, but in fact they were not. For several of the sets ended only after long hard-fought games. Also because of the weather conditions, practices have been few and far between : but even through such upsets the team have shown enthusiasm towards the game.

The following girls have represented the school in matches :—
M. Ring, H. Parker, K. Day, S. Cooke, M. Wright, L. Morrison and P. Cockburn.

Helen Parker again won the Gold Cup, playing against Margaret Ring.

Results:

Alcester v. Bromsgrove High School, lost 2-7.

Alcester v. Stratford Grammar School, lost 2-7.

Alcester v. Redditch High School, lost 4-5.

Alcester v. Worcester Grammar School, lost 2-7.

ART SOCIETY

Secretary : Monica Rock. Treasurer : Ingrid Ison.

Meetings were held regularly during the dinner hour in the winter term and after school in the summer term.

On Tuesday, November 27th, the society, accompanied by Miss Simm and Mr. Clyndes visited Birmingham Art Gallery to see the Student's Exhibition. This outing proved to be very interesting and enjoyable for all.

Miss Simm obtained thirty tickets for the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera "The Mikado" on the evening of Saturday, January 19th. Despite the snow blizzards and bitter cold most of the party arrived to enjoy a most entertaining evening.

Excursions in the summer term had to be cancelled owing to examinations but it is hoped that further outings will be planned for the Autumn term.

MONICA ROCK, L.VI

BARNARDO HELPERS' LEAGUE, 1962

Once again I take this opportunity of thanking all past and present members of the school who have helped in any way to support our efforts. The Box Opening took place in October a month earlier than usual and yielded £73 4s. 9d. which not surprisingly was lower than last year but nevertheless was a very welcome contribution from our members of the League.

One way in which non-members can help is to join in the

Snowdonia. Mr. Clyndes, Mrs. Price and ten members left the school, on Thursday, February 21st in a hired mini-bus, on which some-one had soon written "A.G.S. Snowdon Expedition," in the dust on the side.

Thursday afternoon was spent climbing the lower slopes of Moel Siabod and Thursday night in Capel Curig Youth Hostel. Glyder Fach (3,263 ft.) was conquered on Friday, which was a scorching hot day. Some members, myself included, received sun-burnt faces due to the reflection of the sun's rays on the snow, which varied in thickness from a few inches to a few feet, making for arduous climbing. Friday was the only day when it was necessary for us to be roped together for a descent, (which proved too difficult and had to be abandoned) but the ice axe proved to be very useful on Saturday too, when Snowdon (3,561 ft) was climbed. This was the climax of the expedition. The party left Bryn Gwynant Youth Hostel and set out along the lower part of the Watkin Path. We left the path and proceeded to the summit via the Bwlch Main arete. The descent proved even more enjoyable, since we could all glissade in the loose snow. Saturday night was also spent in Bryn Gwynant Youth Hostel.

Sunday morning quickly passed on a leisurely hill-climb, which incorporated some rock-scrambling. We were all sad to have to say good-bye to Snowdonia on Sunday afternoon, after having spent a most exhilarating week-end.

C. J. SUCH, U.VI Sc.

MUSIC SOCIETY

The most important happening of the Music Society is the acquisition of "The Child's Introduction to Music," a set of records and books giving the biography and music of the great composers. These have enjoyed great popularity.

Meetings of the society have become more and more irregular as the examinations approached, but we hope they will improve next year.

The Music Society helped with the production of "Twelfth Night," in which Aulton provided most of the music.

P. T. CRADDOCK, U.VI Sc.

CHESS CLUB

Chess, the game of kings, has recently enjoyed well deserved popularity among the first and second forms. The most studious types of the former, (Girls were conspicuous by their absence) regularly aspire to the game of war in miniature during the dinner-hour, while their lesser acquaintances are running amok in the playground.

Our illustrious chess team, a veritable fortress, founded upon such hard core as Fridman, Smith, Mason, Craddock, and

BALLROOM DANCING CLUB

The Ballroom Dancing Club proved to be a great success. Meetings were held on Mondays for the Upper School and later extended to include the Third Form on Tuesdays. The small fee charged covered the cost of records and a donation was made to the Freedom From Hunger Campaign.

Owing to examinations the club was forced to discontinue its meetings but it is hoped to begin them again in the near future.

S.M.K.

SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY

In September, 1962, a Square Dance Society was formed for the junior school. This received a good response but unfortunately had to be disbanded owing to the transfer of the library to the old gymnasium.

However activities have already been planned for the autumn, when it is hoped that the society will re-commence.

M.B., V.N., W.B.

SIXTH FORM NOTES

The Sixth Form Notes once held the position of "court circular" in the magazine, to display the works and hint at the scandals of the mighty Sixth Form, before whom a humble world gaped, and, in its turn, aped—shades of "Greyfriars"! That is gone and what is left?—us, at face value.

It is estimated that by 1990 men will outnumber women. If the Lower Sixth is any standard to go by, men have quite a lot of ground to catch up. There have been 14 girls and an average of 1.417 boys in the Lower Sixth this year, and, for reasons unknown, the 1.0 male has been evacuated to the Upper Sixth form-room for registration.

This year, eleven of us have applied for admission to universities and six of us to training colleges. This has involved a great deal of travelling to interviews, during the "freeze-up," to places as far apart as London and Newcastle. We have been oscillating up and down Britain like yo-yoes with travel lust.

The Reverend J. Emrys-Jones has again been visiting the Sixth regularly, for some very interesting talks. These are a great success and we all very much enjoy and appreciate them. The range of topics is wide, the comments often humorous, but the discussion always relevant. Most of the Sixth Form attended the Student Christian Movement's Conference at Redditch High School in April. We saw, and heard, how the Church interprets worship in music and the way some of it is being modernised to suit changing tastes and temperaments.

It seems a tradition for the Sixth Form's most undignified and unpleasant accidents to be faithfully recorded in detail. Not

Vondrak's Feste adequately "fooling" money from Orsino, deserved mention, as did Burn's sombre and just priest.

Steed's two songs added a finesse to the production and this "serious cherub" held the stage well.

Though mishaps occurred and promptings were occasionally necessary, and with sparks literally flying during the fight scenes, the production by Mrs. Price was enthusiastically received by an audience of governors, friends of the school, parents and pupils.

Costumes were hired from the Royal Shakespeare Memorial Theatre and definitely enabled the actors to feel more in character. The make-up was to a professional standard with realistic blood oozing between the uninhibited Sir Toby Belch's fingers. The play benefited from the simplicity of its sets which gave a true Shakespearian touch, as all props were lent or borrowed, owing to lack of funds. This atmosphere was augmented by Aulton's artistic period music.

JAIN DRINKWATER, U.VI.

BAST

(Bast was the cat-headed god of Egypt.)

Winding tongues of flickering fire,

Coiling, writhing with desire

To touch the offering laid up there

On a jewelled altar bare

Of ought else—just for her.

Rhythmic, rolling beat of drum.

See the long, lithe dancers come

Wailing, weaving pearl-white arms.

Priests intonate magic charms

'Gainst evil—all for her.

She sways a little with delight,

The smoke, it never dims her sight,

But bears to nostril pungent reek

Of feathers white from cockerel weak.

That fought not—this for her.

She recalls flashing knife and red

Crimson straining white fowl's head,

Disappearing as 'twas cast

Into the fire for great Bast,

The deity—for this is she.

JANICE SWAIN, U.VI.

Girls delight in a trivial little game of trying to "score points" over boys by abusing chivalry, "Will you take my dinner money across for me asks some female head-of-table, in a voice which conveys, "I fully expect you to take my dinner money for me." The male, who has often heard this female boasting about the way girls are supposed to be able to manipulate boys, and also sensing an amusing situation, says "No!" The female says "Huh, men," and proceeds to start nagging. This is usually extremely funny, and when the boy has been amused enough, he agrees to take the money. The girl thinks she has "scored a point." The boy has also achieved his object, as he was going to take the money anyway. The boy's purpose being not what the girl thinks it is, often results in counter-attack being mistaken for submission.

Some girls say that chivalry is dead or dying. False chivalry is dead or dying. A typically victorian gentleman opens a typically victorian door for a typically victorian lady. He is asked "why did you do that?" He replies "I don't know, old boy. All the other chappies do it."

When chivalry occurs now, it does so for its own sake, and a gentleman performs it because he wants to, not because he is forced to by a rigid code of conduct.

The gentleman who failed to pick up the lady's handkerchief probably knew why it was dropped. When chivalry is expected or demanded, it loses its value.

Girls are unashamedly deceitful as they think it is an accomplishment to try to manipulate fellow-beings by half-truths.

Girls tend to be emotionally unstable. They feel that they must focus their emotions on something to give them a feeling of security. They idolize pop singers (male) and practically rave over them. They are asked "What do you think of Billy Raver's latest record?" and they go into a sort of detached trance, flutter their eyelids and murmur "I think he's gorgeous!" Girls are exploited in this way as there are many more successful male recording stars than female. A medallion worn around the neck is a sign that they need the comfort of a good-luck charm. They also get comfort from legion "love-comics," which give a semi-modern form of cinderella or Sleeping Beauty repeatedly in various slightly disguised forms. Advertisers know the weaknesses of women as most of their advertisements are directed towards them.

"It is a woman's privilege to change her mind." This is obvious rubbish as everyone has said. Why then has this adage been applied exclusively to women? The answer is, of course, that women are guilty of faulty judgement and therefore have to change their mind more often. Sound judgement is based on logic, so women are illogical. What they call intuition is really prejudice.

Now for the vexed question of equality. I cannot imagine why women want to be carbon copies of men. Perhaps it's "If

by the Russians. Saw the Russian soldiers guarding their memorial at the top of its steps. At the bottom of the steps were British soldiers, apparently guarding the Russians. "What are they doing there?" I wondered. Then, looking across the road, realised, for there were American and German soldiers, scowling across at the Russians.

April 13th.—Came back from Berlin.

April 14th.—Easter Sunday, went to the Evangelical Church, similar to the Church of England.

April 15th.—Easter Monday—surprised to find myself going to church again.

April 19th.—Started back for England. Am writing this in an Army Officer's house, owing to the tragic fact that I missed the train from Hanover to Ostend. After several showery outbursts on my part and extensive enquiries, finished up at the R.T.O. office on the station, like a piece of lost luggage. There I was taken pity on, and was able to speak in English, sure of being understood.

April 20th.—Thanks to the officer and the British Consulate am now safely on my way home, travelling through Holland to the coast.

April 21st.—Eventually arrived home, travelling by train from Harwich to Birmingham on a ticket bought by the Customs at Harwich. From Birmingham travelled uneventfully to Studley by the friendly Midland Red. Weather very much the same as when I left Germany—pouring with rain!

SHEILA MICHELL, L.VI.

THE WEIR

The water gently glides between the banks,
Slowly, calmly.
But for the few small eddies here and there,
It seems to be at peace with all the world
Until the scheming weir attracts it to the fall
When suddenly it changes, to become
A rushing torrent twixt the man-made walls,
The angry waters forming into froth
That flies and jumps and swirls into the air
Then, just as suddenly, the anger goes
Have not the waters left the treacherous weir?
Continuing its course the river runs contentedly once more,
The froth, now turned to castles and such dream-like things floats by,
Only to dissolve and fade away,
Like any dream faced with reality.

SALLIE GOODMAN, VA.

"Twelfth Night" — Act II Scene 5



EVENING

Along the quiet road at evening,
Walks a lonely shepherd lad.
In front, his lazy sheep go, weaving,
But why is he so sad?
He looked upward in the dim twilight,
Saw a bird on homeward wing.
He'd searched all day with all his might,
And for so small a thing.
One tiny lamb was missing from the flock;
Now, a patient ewe stood still.
What had she heard, that the lad had not?
A bleat from yonder hill.
The shepherd heard it, and with his crook
Scaled the steep rock face so cold.
Then from the high ledge the lamb he took,
Restored it to the fold.
Along the quiet road at evening
Goes a gentle shepherd lad.
In front, his lazy sheep go, weaving,
He is no longer sad.

ANN WILTSHERE, IV.A.

AUTUMN

A watery sun shines through hazy air,
And the early morning knows no blare
Of car and buses, lorries and carts
All city bound as the new day starts.
But in the country, all is still,
But for the lark with his warbling trill
And his new day welcomes a greater joy
Than a happy child with a bright new toy.
The trees and hedges hang heavy with dew,
Transformed with tinges of glorious hue;
The leaves, brown and yellow, all burnished and bold,
Compete with their neighbours in glorious gold.
Berries, bright red as the hawthorn tree,
Make a colourful smudge on the landscape free;
Swallows and house-martins gather in flocks,
And swift little squirrels make Winter stocks.

N. SHEARMAN IIIB.

knew where Hill House was. It stood in its own grounds, completely surrounded by trees. I could only ever see the chimney tops but I had always thought of the place as deserted. No-one had ever spoken about the place, or its occupants, and anyway, I was not really interested.

Although I was tired, I was able to appreciate the beauty of the night as I rode along. I did not need a light since the moon and snow combined to give a delicate white light, which transformed the rural countryside into a lonely wonderland.

When I reached the gate of Hill House it struck me as being awkward as if it had not been opened for a long time. The drive was like a white ribbon leading up to the house, and there were no wheel or footmarks on the drive. As I went up the drive, I caught an occasional glimpse of the house through the trees. It was an old, stone-built house, and there was something odd—out of place—about it. A large bird suddenly flew out of the trees, directly in front of me, startling me.

The next minute the trees gave way to an island of white, in the middle of which stood the house. It was then that I discovered what was out of place about it. Although everything for miles around was covered with six inches of snow, there was not one flake on the house itself, or within thirty feet of it. I stood immobile, looking blankly at the house bathed in moonlight. Then I heard a dog howl mournfully and I remembered my mission. As I approached the house I became aware of a strong smell of burning, yet there was no smoke to be seen from the chimneys, and no light shone in any of the windows. Only the dejected howling of the dog gave any indication of life about the place.

I rang the bell and after a time I heard a rattling noise; suddenly the door swung open and a little white-haired old man stood eyeing me with the aid of a feeble oil lamp.

"I am the Vet, you sent for me."

"You are late," said the old man, "come follow me." Then he led the way muttering something about seven years.

The smell of burning was really oppressive now, and my eyes began to run. Surely I could hear a fire crackling. At each turn of the corridor the smell grew stronger and the noise was now much louder. It seemed to come from all sides, and I was getting worried.

I asked the old man what it was, but he did not appear to hear me. At last it got so bad that I was certain that the house was burning. There were great crashes and roars as if burning beams were crashing down all around us: The corridor was becoming lighter of its own accord.

"Old man," I shouted. "What is this? For God's sake stop!" I yelled, as he went round a corner. I ran round after him but he was nowhere to be seen. I was just looking for him when, to my horror, I saw a great blazing beam fall. In a second the whole

thought that the first pay packet that a sixteen-year-old boy will bring home will be his "dole" money.

The high divorce rate and the unemployment problem are of course the responsibilities of the teenager. It is, after all, he who has to wait until he is twenty-one before he is able to vote in this democratic country. Until that time he is tolerated by the responsible people who run this country, and also those who run the world. Those wise elders who manage so brilliantly to win two world wars (and also to kill millions of people). The elders who sit with their fingers poised over the buttons which will for the final time reduce the world to war. The elders who every year invent a new and more terrible method of killing their fellow humans.

Everyday, every month, every year, crimes are committed by adults. In 1955 three quarters of a million adults were found guilty of criminal offences, as compared with five thousand court orders, issued in Juvenile Courts in the same year. Whichever way a teenager turns, sex and dirt are thrust upon him; on the radio (Luxembourg and Network Three apart); in books and magazines; in newspapers (Is it a coincidence that the "News of the World" has the largest Sunday circulation?), in films and now even on record.

The list appears to be never ending : the Colour Bar, Social Snobbery, Famine, Slums. It is about time the adults stopped criticising teenagers and concentrated on clearing up the mess that they have made of the world.

P. S. FRIDMAN, U.VI.

THE ROBIN

The Robin is our cheery friend,
He brightens a winter day
He sings his merry little song,
That he is here to stay.

Outside he sits on snowy branch
Through wind and frost and snow,
He sits to guard his piece of land
And drive away the foe.

Although he sits to guard his land,
It may be for me and for you,
For it seems our house is on his ground,
He sits to guard us too.

CHRISTINE WALTER, IA.

I bow to take the curtain call." The most dominant fear was, of course, the fear of forgetting one's lines.

The performances were over all too quickly and there was an air of nostalgia as we packed our costumes into the skip. We are now looking forward to the next play Mrs. Price has lined up for us.

C.J.S.

RETIREMENT OF MR. W. THORNTON

It is with regret that we record the retirement of Mr. Thornton from the staff earlier this year, after an absence of fifteen months due to ill health.

Mr. Thornton joined the staff in January 1942 from the North Manchester Grammar School. For ten years previously he had held the post of Senior Mathematics Master at Tettenhall College, Wolverhampton. As Senior Science Master at Alcester he has served the school well for the past twenty-one years, as a long list of academic successes amply shows. He has always entered very fully into the life of the school. From 1942 until 1945 he was second-in-command of the School Cadets; it was unfortunately at one of their camps that Mr. Thornton contacted his first serious illness which kept him at home for some months.

For several years he was in charge of boys' games, and ever since he has maintained a keen interest in the fortunes of the school teams, being, until his recent illness, a regular spectator at home matches. It was, moreover, Mr. Thornton who ably organised Sports Days from 1942 to 1952, and he has at other times acted as starter and recorder at this event. He himself played a very shrewd and calculated game of tennis as many of the staff and sixth form will appreciate, who have played against him in the annual staff versus sixth form matches.

Although primarily a scientist, Mr. Thornton always showed a lively interest in the arts. He gave his support to school plays and took charge of the box-office on several occasions. During the time of "General Activities" on Friday afternoons, he did at various times take charge of the Chess and Photographic Clubs, and even dared for a short period to look after the Sketching Club, when, amongst the staff at least, he assumed the title of "Academician Extraordinary".

For the last four years at school Mr. Thornton has held the position of Senior Master and it was with much regret that pupils, old scholars and colleagues on the staff heard that the active role which he played in the life of the school had finally to be relinquished after so long an illness. We hope that his retirement will allow his health to improve and that, continuing to live in Alcester, he will be able to maintain a close link with the school.

Hospital; Jacqueline Hatton is also a cadet nurse at Dudley Road Birmingham; Valerie Hughes and Pat Jones are taking a secretarial course at Redditch College of Further Education; Heather Lee is working at the Inland Revenue Department at Redditch, while studying part time at Birmingham School of Commerce; Virginia Ross is a laboratory assistant in Evesham; Patricia Smith and Shelagh Moore are doing a hair-dressing course at Solihull.

Lower Sixth 1963

Anita Goodier has obtained a scholarship to London College of Dance and Drama, where she is now studying dancing; Monica Rock is doing a combined course for Children's and General Nursing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham; Janet Summers is doing a year's domestic science course at Radbrook College, Shrewsbury prior to studying nursing at Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Patricia Thompson is studying for a National Business Diploma, at Birmingham School of Commerce.

Upper Sixth 1963

Wendy Blake and Jane Drinkwater are at Coventry Training College; Valerie Nichol is studying domestic science at Gloucester Training College; Sally-Anne Bolton is at Furzedown Training College; Helen Parker is at Bromsgrove Technical College; Janice Swain is at Redditch College of Further Education; Craddock and Burn are reading Chemistry at Birmingham University and Aulton is reading Electrical Engineering at Birmingham University; Hedney is reading Chemistry at Exeter University; Fridman is at the Birmingham College of Commerce.

Diana M. F. Roberts, who went to the Birmingham College of Arts and Crafts in September 1957, gained a Certificate in Education and Art Teachers' Diploma in 1962; Wimlett is working at the Research Centre, Fort Dunlop; Iris Jones returned in August from her year's voluntary teaching service in a Junior Secondary School in Buganda. She gained unforgettable experiences and, although much of the work was hard and the hours long, she enjoyed herself and managed to visit Kenya and Tanganyika. She now begins a three-year training course at Whitelands College, London.

OLD SCHOLARS NEWS

P. J. Burden has obtained his Merchant Navy Master's Certificate.

D. S. Bailey has been awarded the D. Litt. of Edinburgh University, for his published work since that which earned him the Ph.D. of the same University. He is restoring the ancient library of Wells Cathedral, of which he is Chancellor.

P. Gowers has joined the Order of Cistercian Monks.

K. A. Woods was instrumental in his firm (Bowater Module

BIRTHS

On April 29th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Beard (née Valerie Liveley)—twin sons.

On May 28th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Hastie (née Mavis Bennett)—a daughter.

On June 8th, to Mr. and Mrs. S. Cole (née Joy Parris)—a son.

On June 25th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Freeman (née Mary Williams)—a son.

On July 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Bristow—a daughter.

On June 29th, to Mr. and Mrs. K. Checketts (née Jacqueline George, 1949-54)—a son.

On August 10th, to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Strain (née Sheila Ingram)—a son.

On August 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Aulton—a daughter.

On August 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. D. Cowper (née Sheila Winspear)—a daughter.

On August 13th, to Mr. and Mrs. N. Jones (née Ann Chavasse)—a son.

MARRIAGES

On August 17th, at Alcester, Glenn Pickard to Muriel B. Lowe—(scholar 1950-57).

On September 8th, at Alcester, John Richard Aulton (scholar 1949-54) to Jacqueline Williams.

On September 22nd, at Crabbs Cross, Gary John Pinfield (scholar 1947-51) to Beryl Jean Tolley.

On September 29th, at Bidford-on-Avon, Sidney John Bennett (scholar 1952-57) to Mary Jacqueline Moore.

On September 29th, at Studley, Keith Thomas Beill to Norma Esme Pinfield (scholar 1952-57).

On October 4th, at Stratford-on-Avon, Russell Gerard Ridgeway Chatwin (scholar 1940-41) to May Anna Woods.

On October 6th at Hampton Lacy, Gerard White Davies (scholar 1943-45) to Josephine Clair Horsfield.

On October 6th, at Redditch, Dan Winston Browning to Diana Smith (scholar 1955-60).

On October 6th, at Sutton Coldfield, David Walton Wilshaw (scholar 1952-59) to Susan Jane Cleave.

On October 13th, at Stratford-on-Avon, John Roy Anderson to Hilary Stanton Light (scholar 1956-59).

On November 24th, at Alcester, Patrick Fitton to Deanna Dudley (scholar 1954-58).

On December 1st, at Bidford-on-Avon, Graham Charles Street to Marigold Manning (scholar 1952-57).

On December 1st, at Stratford-on-Avon, James William

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Oxford Local Examinations, 1963 General Certificate of Education Advanced Level

Form Upper VI

D. J. Aulton, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics.
 R. J. Burn, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
 P. T. Craddock, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry (Merit).
 P. S. Fridman, History, Pure and Applied Mathematics (top grade).
 P. J. Handy, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics.
 R. J. Harber, Geography, Pure Mathematics.
 B. C. Hedney, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
 J. S. P. Smith, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics.
 C. J. Such, Geography, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics.
 R. Tallis, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics.
 Wendy Blake, Needlework.
 Sally-Anne Bolton, History.
 Margaret Buckingham, French, Cookery.
 Jane Drinkwater, English Literature, Geography.
 Valerie Nichol, English Literature, French, Cookery.
 Janice Swain, English Literature, Art.

Ordinary Level

(e—English Language; E—English Literature; L—Latin; F—French; S—Spanish; H—History; R—Religious Knowledge; G—Geography; A—Art; M—Mathematics; P—Physics, C—Chemistry; B—Biology; Hb—Human Biology and Hygiene; W—Woodwork; D—Engineering Drawing; Co—Cookery;) an asterisk* denotes a top grade pass.

Form VI

P. J. Handy, P; R. J. Harber, M; R. Tallis, P; Wendy Blake, A; Sally-Anne Bolton, M; Janice Swain, F; Glennis Betts, A; Anita Goodier, S, A; Mary Mahoney, S; Sheila Michell, S; Anne Oseland, P; Katherine Strasser, S; Janet Summers, Hb.

Form VA

T. J. Abrey e, E, G, A, D.
 R. P. Budgen, e, E, L, F, H, R, M, P.
 J. M. Chapman E, G, M, P, C, D.*
 J. W. Gazzard, e, F, G, M, D.
 T. J. Greaves, H, G, M.
 J. B. Henderson, e,* I, F,* G, M, P.
 R. A. Ison, e, F, H, R, M.
 I. K. Mason, e, E, L, F, R, M,* P,* C, B.
 N. A. Southall E, H, R, G, P.
 R. W. Tanner, e, E, L, F, R, G,* M, P.
 C.
 L. M. Taylor, e, G.
 J. S. Tuckey, e, E, L, F, H,* R, G,* M,* C,*
 P. J. Wiggett e, E, L, F, R, G, M, P
 D. A. Wright, e, E, L, F, R, G, M,* P
 Maureen Anderson, e, E, F, H, R, A, M.
 Patricia Bayliss, e, F,* I, F,* H,* M, C, B.
 Patricia Blackwell E, F, R, A, Co.

Aileen Boyd, e, E, F, H, R, G, M, Co
 Patricia Bullock, e,* E, L, F,* R, A,* M,
 C, B.*
 Alison Chamberlain, e, F, Co.
 Elizabeth Colegate, E, A, M.
 Maxine Freeman, e, E, F, H,* R, M, B.
 Sally Goodman, e,* E, F, A, B.
 Ingrid Ison e,* E,* L, F,* H,* R, A,*
 M, B.
 Sylvia Jones, e, E, F, H, A, R.
 Sheila Kinchin, e, E, F, H, R, A, M.
 Roberta Landucci, e,* E, L, F,* R, A.
 Anne MacAleece, e, E, H, R, G, M, P, C.
 Jacqueline Price e, E, H,* F, R, A, M, B.
 Ann Ramwell e, E,* L, F,* H, R, A,* M,
 B.
 Carolyn Toomey, e,* E, H, R, A, M, Co.

Form VB

B. R. Hay, G, M.
 R. L. Hemmings, E, F, H, G.
 C. J. Hudson, M.
 E. L. Newitt, E, M.
 A. A. Roberts, F, R.
 A. J. Round, e, E, R.
 P. Ward, W, D.
 R. S. Watts, e, W.
 G. R. Wyatt, e, E, H, R, G, M, B.
 Madeleine Beesley, e, F, H.
 Lola Bird, e, R, M, B, Co.
 Angela Busby, E, F, H, G, C, Co.

Dianne Chittock, e, E, F, H, R.
 June Furber, E, R, Co.
 Mary Hams, R, A, Co.
 Elizabeth Jeffery, e, E, R, A, Co.
 Lindsay Morrison, e, E, F, R, A.
 Anthea Nokes, e, E, A, M.
 Susan Perkins, e, E, H,* R, A.
 Beryl Read, e, E, A.
 Margaret Ring, H, Co.
 Jeanette Taylor, e, E, R.
 Susan Wainwright, e, E, H, R, Co.
 Jennifer Wellum, R, G, M, Co.



The cast of "Twelfth Night" in the School Hall, July 1963